

The Agency

Department of Children, Youth and Families

Agency Operations

The Department of Children, Youth and Families is charged to mobilize the human, physical and financial resources available to plan, develop, implement, and evaluate a comprehensive and integrated statewide program of services designed to ensure the opportunity for children to reach their full potential.

It is the department's philosophy that parents have the primary responsibility for meeting the needs of their children. When parents are unable to do so, all services to the child and family are premised upon the safety and best interest of the child and the promotion of community-based responsibility/involvement in servicing its own children/families. When departmental support is necessary and appropriate, services are provided in the least intrusive, least restrictive manner possible.

The department addresses its responsibilities through its Child Welfare, Children's Behavioral Health and Education, Juvenile Correctional Services, and Higher Education Incentive Grant Programs, which are guided and assisted by a leadership support program identified as Central Management.

The Child Welfare Program consists of child protective investigations, community-based services, and residential services delivered to dependent, neglected or abused children or children at risk of abuse or neglect.

The Children's Behavioral Health and Education Program designs, implements and monitors a continuum of therapeutic services to seriously emotionally disturbed children and youth.

The Juvenile Correctional Services Program provides services to youngsters who have been adjudicated as wayward or delinquent by the Family Court and determined to be in need of placement at the Training School for Youth, placement in a less structured community residential setting, or supervision in the community while residing at home.

The Higher Education Incentive Grant is designed to encourage youth to pursue educational goals beyond high school and to provide added incentive to achieve a high school diploma.

Statutory History

In 1979 the General Assembly enacted Title 42 Chapter 72 of the Rhode Island General Laws. This legislation created the Department for Children and Their Families effective January 1, 1980. The enabling legislation transferred to the department certain functions from the Departments of Human Services, Corrections, Mental Health, Retardation and Hospitals, and Community Affairs. In 1991 the General Assembly amended Title 42 Chapter 72 to read "Department of Children, Youth and Families."

The Budget

Department of Children, Youth and Families

	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Revised	FY 2007 Recommended
Expenditures By Program				
Central Management	11,596,938	11,597,053	12,493,634	13,334,747
Children's Behavioral Health Services	55,570,006	58,524,782	66,350,091	67,417,421
Juvenile Correctional Services	30,024,801	31,480,889	37,141,504	39,124,889
Child Welfare	154,889,328	161,310,894	167,809,935	169,648,787
Higher Education Incentive Grants	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
Total Expenditures	\$252,281,073	\$263,113,618	\$283,995,164	\$289,725,844
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	71,603,020	74,613,253	81,506,434	81,647,310
Other State Operations	8,990,321	8,848,412	9,599,714	11,600,738
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	171,641,249	179,613,886	190,936,280	192,877,796
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$252,234,590	\$263,075,551	\$282,042,428	\$286,125,844
Capital Improvements	46,483	38,067	1,952,736	3,600,000
Capital Debt Service	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$252,281,073	\$263,113,618	\$283,995,164	\$289,725,844
Expenditures By Funds				
General Revenue	141,197,300	155,364,630	165,600,390	171,984,600
Federal Funds	109,087,004	106,338,985	114,530,214	112,480,150
Restricted Receipts	1,976,012	1,409,503	2,284,900	1,661,094
Other Funds	20,757	500	1,579,660	3,600,000
Total Expenditures	\$252,281,073	\$263,113,618	\$283,995,164	\$289,725,844
FTE Authorization	849.8	849.8	849.8	790.8
Agency Measures				
Minorities as a Percentage of the Workforce	13.1%	13.2%	13.2%	13.5%
Females as a Percentage of the Workforce	64.1%	64.2%	64.2%	64.2%
Persons with Disabilities as a Percentage of the Workforce	5.5%	5.6%	5.6%	5.6%

The Program

Department of Children, Youth and Families Central Management

Program Operations

The Central Management Program consists of a variety of sub-programs including executive functions and legal and administrative services.

The executive functions include administrative and operational direction, planning, management and evaluation of overall departmental operations.

Administrative services include financial management, personnel, staff development and training, management information systems, and licensing and regulation. A centralized on-line database system, the Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS), supports all investigatory and case management functions of the department, and other critical administrative functions.

Legal services includes departmental representation in all Family Court proceedings relating to child abuse and neglect, commitment trials and termination of parental rights trials, as well as civil litigation in other state and federal courts, and administrative and labor tribunals. This service also provides on-going legal consultation to the Director, administrators and line staff involved in Family Court proceedings.

Program Objectives

Provide leadership and direction in the development and implementation of an efficient and productive system of service delivery to Rhode Island's children and families.

Provide consistent legal representation and consultation to all departmental staff involved in court proceedings.

Provide comprehensive, integrated management services to assure fiscal integrity and accurate data collection and interpretation.

Statutory History

Title 42 Chapter 72 of the Rhode Island General Laws defines the functions of the Department of Children, Youth and Families.

The Budget

Department of Children, Youth and Families Central Management

	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
	Actual	Actual	Revised	Recommended
Expenditures By Subprogram				
Support Services	5,303,255	4,827,802	5,592,282	5,707,725
Office of Budget	1,309,800	1,650,047	1,702,478	1,713,620
Information Systems	4,180,275	4,278,146	4,256,354	4,921,714
Office of the Director	803,608	841,058	942,520	991,688
Total Expenditures	\$11,596,938	\$11,597,053	\$12,493,634	\$13,334,747
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	9,441,758	9,272,591	10,043,392	8,847,688
Other State Operations	1,972,562	1,958,381	2,446,051	4,482,868
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	182,618	344,994	4,191	4,191
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$11,596,938	\$11,575,966	\$12,493,634	\$13,334,747
Capital Improvements	-	21,087	-	-
Capital Debt Service	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$11,596,938	\$11,597,053	\$12,493,634	\$13,334,747
Expenditures By Funds				
General Revenue	7,882,548	8,238,181	8,499,960	8,951,332
Federal Funds	3,714,390	3,358,872	3,993,674	4,383,415
Total Expenditures	\$11,596,938	\$11,597,053	\$12,493,634	\$13,334,747
Program Measures	NA	NA	NA	NA

The Program

Department of Children, Youth and Families Children's Behavioral Health Services

Program Operations

The Children's Behavioral Health and Education Services Program is primarily responsible for the design, implementation and monitoring of a continuum of therapeutic services to seriously emotionally disturbed children, youth and families. Children placed in the custody of the department due to abuse, neglect or dependency, as well as children in the custody of their parents or legal guardians are eligible for these services. Most of these services, with the exception of psychiatric hospitalization, are provided by non-profit agencies and delivered in community-based settings. Coordination and local planning is facilitated through the Child and Adolescent Services System (Project/CASSP) which sponsors a Local Coordinating Council (LCC) representing all child/youth and serving agencies within each region of the State. Each LCC supports planning teams which coordinate children's behavioral health services and provides funding for non-traditional services on a case-by-case basis. Children's Intensive Services provide a comprehensive array of community-based mental health services designed to reduce the need for inpatient care and to support severely emotionally disturbed children and their families in community settings.

Project HOPE, an extension of the CASSP/LCC system of care, was a federally funded program until September of 2005. This statewide initiative that serves youth, who have serious emotional disturbances and are transitioning from the Rhode Island Training School for Youth (RITS) back to their own communities, is now state funded. A full range of project services including mental health services, case management, vocational training, family service coordinating and wrap-around are available in the four catchment areas of Providence, Pawtucket/Central Falls, Northern Rhode Island and Kent County.

In addition, the division is partnering with Contracts and Program Development and the community mental health centers, in convening Care Management Teams. These teams, composed of DCYF staff, community partners and parents, utilize the continuum of resources from community-based to residential treatment services in planning for the least-restrictive appropriate level of care for children with serious treatment needs.

Program Objectives

Design and implement a comprehensive array of therapeutic services to meet the needs of seriously emotionally disturbed children and youth; expand and enhance the capacity of local communities and regions to meet these needs within their geographic areas; provide services in the least restrictive environment utilizing inpatient psychiatric care and residential treatment only until a child can return to a community-based service.

Statutory History

Title 42 Chapter 72 of the Rhode Island General Law defines the functions of the Department of Children, Youth and Families; Title 40.1 Chapter 5 describes the provisions relating to mental health laws. The act creating the LCC sub-program was 98-H-8122, Substitute A.

The Budget

Department of Children, Youth and Families Children's Behavioral Health Services

	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Revised	FY 2007 Recommended
Expenditures By Subprogram				
Children's Mental Health	29,735,083	34,343,481	54,750,566	42,773,410
Psychiatric Services	24,134,617	22,429,198	9,668,168	23,028,131
CBH Educational Services	1,700,306	1,752,103	1,931,357	1,615,880
Total Expenditures	\$55,570,006	\$58,524,782	\$66,350,091	\$67,417,421
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	2,949,655	3,382,711	3,585,068	3,399,045
Other State Operations	179,130	153,363	191,077	185,626
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	52,431,664	54,988,708	62,494,286	63,832,750
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$55,560,449	\$58,524,782	\$66,270,431	\$67,417,421
Capital Improvements	9,557	-	79,660	-
Capital Debt Service	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$55,570,006	\$58,524,782	\$66,350,091	\$67,417,421
Expenditures By Funds				
General Revenue	23,807,395	27,373,536	32,347,986	34,111,449
Federal Funds	31,753,054	31,150,746	33,922,445	33,305,972
Other	9,557	500	79,660	-
Total Expenditures	\$55,570,006	\$58,524,782	\$66,350,091	\$67,417,421
Program Measures				
Percentage of Children Admitted into a Psychiatric Hospital and Remain for 21 Days or Less	77.1%	76.1%	78.0%	78.5%
Percentage of Children/Youth Readmitted into a Psychiatric Hospital within 60 Days of Discharge	10.6%	18.2%	16.0%	15.0%

The Program

Department of Children, Youth and Families Juvenile Correctional Services

Program Operations

The Juvenile Correctional Services Program consists of three sub-programs providing varying levels of service to wayward and delinquent youngsters.

Institutional programming is conducted at the Rhode Island Training School for Youth. The facility provides a secure, structured residential program for adjudicated delinquents and those awaiting trial on serious offenses. Residents undergo an assessment at intake into the facility and are programmed accordingly. Services include case management, education, recreation and a selection of contracted or purchased services (e.g. medical, drug and alcohol counseling, violent offender/sex offender therapy).

Community-based programming (Probation and Parole) includes both residential and non-residential services. Non-residential services are provided directly by departmental staff as well as through purchase of services or contracts. Community-based residential services are available for adjudicated youngsters who require residential care but not a setting as secure and structured as the Training School. These services are provided via contractual and purchase of service arrangements.

Educational services are provided to all Rhode Island Training School residents, both detained and adjudicated. Residents are grouped by academic levels and/or individual education plan specifications. The services adhere to all Rhode Island Department of Education regulations.

Program Objectives

Provide secure and structured residential programming for adjudicated juvenile offenders and those awaiting trial.

Increase the use of community-based programming thereby limiting the need for long-term placement in the Training School.

Statutory History

Title 42 Chapter 72 of the Rhode Island General Laws defines the functions of the Department of Children, Youth and Families; Title 42 Chapter 56 provides for the Training School for Youth; Title 14 Chapter 1 relates to the power of the court to order disposition of a juvenile.

The Budget

Department of Children, Youth and Families Juvenile Correctional Services

	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Revised	FY 2007 Recommended
Expenditures By Subprogram				
Institutional Services	15,951,239	16,437,547	20,119,073	21,204,417
Juvenile Probation & Parole	10,215,295	10,778,649	12,486,190	13,140,149
RITS - Education Program	3,858,267	4,264,693	4,536,241	4,780,323
Total Expenditures	\$30,024,801	\$31,480,889	\$37,141,504	\$39,124,889
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	21,589,064	22,500,267	25,090,454	25,818,403
Other State Operations	1,898,651	1,957,514	1,967,809	1,990,190
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	6,500,160	7,006,128	8,710,165	9,016,296
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$29,987,875	\$31,463,909	\$35,768,428	\$36,824,889
Capital Improvements	36,926	16,980	1,373,076	2,300,000
Capital Debt Service	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$30,024,801	\$31,480,889	\$37,141,504	\$39,124,889
Expenditures By Funds				
General Revenue	26,631,304	28,419,693	32,067,136	33,439,629
Federal Funds	3,149,517	3,016,902	3,428,888	3,379,260
Restricted Receipts	232,780	44,294	645,480	6,000
Other Funds	11,200	-	1,000,000	2,300,000
Total Expenditures	\$30,024,801	\$31,480,889	\$37,141,504	\$39,124,889

Program Measures

Percentage of Adjudicated and Detained Training School Youth Passing the General Education Development Exam	82.0%	81.9%	82.5%	83.0%
Percentage of Adjudicated Training School Youth Admitted During the Fiscal Year After Release within the Prior 12 months	29.9%	34.7%	29.9%	29.9%

The Program

Department of Children, Youth and Families Child Welfare

Program Operations

The Child Welfare Program consists of several major sub-programs including Child Protective Services, Family Services, Community-Based Services and Residential Services.

Child Protective Services is responsible for receiving and investigating allegations of child abuse/neglect throughout Rhode Island. This division operates 24-hours a day, seven days a week. When allegations of abuse or neglect are substantiated, the investigator must determine what actions are necessary in order to assure the safety and well being of the child. Sometimes it is necessary to remove a child from the home, but much more frequently services are provided to the child and family in order to bring the family to a higher level of functioning. Sometimes these services are provided by department social workers who operate out of one of four regional offices and sometimes by private, non-profit community agencies.

When a child requires out of home care, every effort is made to place him/her with relatives or others known to him/her. When a child requires a level of care beyond foster care, there is an array of services available from community-based group homes to intensive residential treatment.

The department also supports prevention and early intervention programs to address the issues and problems which lead to child abuse/neglect and to provide services so that family functioning does not deteriorate to a point where DCYF intervention becomes necessary.

Program Objectives

Protect children through the timely investigation of child abuse and neglect complaints.

Maintain the family unit when possible through the provision of services, which improve family functioning.

Aggressively pursue permanency through the provision of reunification and adoption services for children who have to be removed from their home.

Statutory History

Title 42 Chapter 72 of the Rhode Island General Laws defines the functions of the Department of Children, Youth and Families; Title 40 Chapter 11 relates to abused and neglected children; Title 14 Chapter 1 relates to proceedings in Family Court.

The Budget

Department of Children, Youth and Families Child Welfare

	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Revised	FY 2007 Recommended
Expenditures By Subprogram				
Protective Services	16,480,148	21,681,821	17,249,465	16,688,613
Family Services	11,890,304	13,825,908	14,026,738	16,592,636
Community Services	8,377,564	8,769,112	10,693,278	10,674,928
Prevention Services	2,076,429	2,514,890	2,586,288	1,994,027
Board & Care	88,088,079	86,963,092	94,528,463	94,266,073
Foster Care	27,976,804	27,556,071	28,725,703	29,432,510
Total Expenditures	\$154,889,328	\$161,310,894	\$167,809,935	\$169,648,787
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	37,622,543	39,457,684	42,787,520	43,582,174
Other State Operations	4,939,978	4,779,154	4,994,777	4,942,054
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	112,326,807	117,074,056	119,527,638	119,824,559
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$154,889,328	\$161,310,894	\$167,309,935	\$168,348,787
Capital Improvements	-	-	500,000	1,300,000
Capital Debt Service	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$154,889,328	\$161,310,894	\$167,809,935	\$169,648,787
Expenditures By Funds				
General Revenue	82,676,053	91,133,220	92,485,308	95,282,190
Federal Funds	70,470,043	68,812,465	73,185,207	71,411,503
Restricted Receipts	1,743,232	1,365,209	1,639,420	1,655,094
Other Funds	-	-	500,000	1,300,000
Total Expenditures	\$154,889,328	\$161,310,894	\$167,809,935	\$169,648,787
Program Measures				
Percentage of Children in Foster Care for Less than 12 Months Who Have Experienced Two or Fewer Placements	79.0%	84.8%	85.0%	85.5%
Percentage of Children Experiencing a Recurrence of Abuse and/or Neglect	11.1%	7.8%	7.5%	7.5%
Percentage of Children Reunified with Parents or Caretaker within 12 Months	66.0%	71.0%	71.5%	72.2%
Percentage of Children Re-entering Foster Care within 12 months of a Previous Placement	20.0%	19.5%	19.0%	20.5%
Percentage of Children Adopted within 24 Months of Removal from Home	50.3%	49.8%	50.0%	50.5%

The Program

Department of Children, Youth and Families Higher Education Incentive Grants

Program Operations

The Department of Children, Youth and Families is responsible for assisting older youth under its care and custody to become self-sufficient and be prepared for transition to independence.

One important means of assisting youth in becoming independent is to encourage education to the highest degree possible. Higher Education Incentive Grants have as their purpose to provide added incentive to achieve a high school diploma and to encourage youth to pursue educational goals beyond high school.

Program Objectives

The main objective is to encourage and assist more youngsters in departmental care to consider and perceive higher education as a viable option, and to allow them the same opportunities that are afforded youth from other families.

Statutory History

Chapter 511, PL 99-S 282, Substitute A amended Section 1, Title 42 provides funds to supplement financial aid to youth who are in the department's custody and who have been accepted at the University of Rhode Island, Community College of Rhode Island or Rhode Island College, to allow these students to pay essential educational costs without loans.

The Budget

Department of Children, Youth and Families Higher Education Incentive Grants

	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Revised	FY 2007 Recommended
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	-	-	-	-
Other State Operations	-	-	-	-
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
Capital Improvements	-	-	-	-
Capital Debt Service	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
Expenditures By Funds				
General Revenue	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
Total Expenditures	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
Program Measures	NA	NA	NA	NA